oilseeds production under NDDB's Vegetable Oil Project and the oilseeds production programme of the Govt. of India. Coastal movement of indigenous edible oil by NDDB also helps to meet the requirement of edible oils in deficit areas in the country.

(b) and (c) Edible oil storage facilities have been created by the oilseeds growers unions and federations in all the 7 States under NDDB's oilseeds Growers Cooperative Project at major producing zones. Work is in progress in Delhi and Kandla where NDDB is building edible oil tank farms to meet the requirement of storing edible oil.

Reduction in the consumption of diesel and other petroleum products

608. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have been directed to reduce the consumption of diesel and other petroleum products by at least 10%; and

(b) if so, what specific steps have been taken to introduce the cut in the consumption without affecting the services and their efficiency?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Railways have been advised from time to time to reduce consumption of diesel and other petroleum products. It is, however, difficult to impose a cut of 10% in view of the increased traffic commitments.

(b) Some of the important steps taken towards conservation of diesel and other petroleum products are:-

(i) proper house keeping and accountal;

(ii) monitoring the consumption of diesel on locomotives driverwise and enginewise;

(iii) maintaining locomotives in good mechanical fettle; and

(iv) lubrication of tracks and wheel flanges etc. etc.

Procurement target for rice and wheat

609. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the procurement target for rice and wheat fixed for this year, State-wise;

(b) how far the targets have been achieved; and

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure that the farmers do not have to resort to distress sale of the produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) No targets of procurement are fixed, as rice is procured under statutory levy on millers and dealers and wheat/paddy is procured against voluntary offers by farmers under Government's price support scheme.

(b) As on 3.8.1990, a quantity of 110.71 lakh tonnes of wheat and 117.49 lakh tonnes of rice has been procured during the current rabi marketing season 1990-91 and kharif marketing season 1989-90, respectively.

(c) The thrust of the Government procurement policy has been to ensure adequate price support to farmers so that distress sale does not occur. A net work of purchase centres is set up throughout the country, and is expanded according to needs from time to time to avoid possibility of distress sale.